

Stouffville Free Press

Vol. 1, No. 1

Whitchurch-Stouffville's Independent Community Owned Newspaper

December 2005

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and Hockey



A tropical Christmas: It may have been cold and snowy outside, but Scotiabank brought some welcome island sunshine into the Kinsmen's Santa Claus Parade, with palm trees, grass skirts and some lively island music.

The Stouffville Free Press then and now

By Kate Gilderdale

Welcome to the first issue of the Stouffville Free Press, a monthly newspaper dedicated to coverage of local news and human interest stories, sports features, information and upcoming events in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The name was chosen to reflect the fact that this is an independent, community-owned and operated publication, but it also has a precedent in local history. In the late 19th Century, the Covington brothers established a Stouffville newspaper called The Free Press.

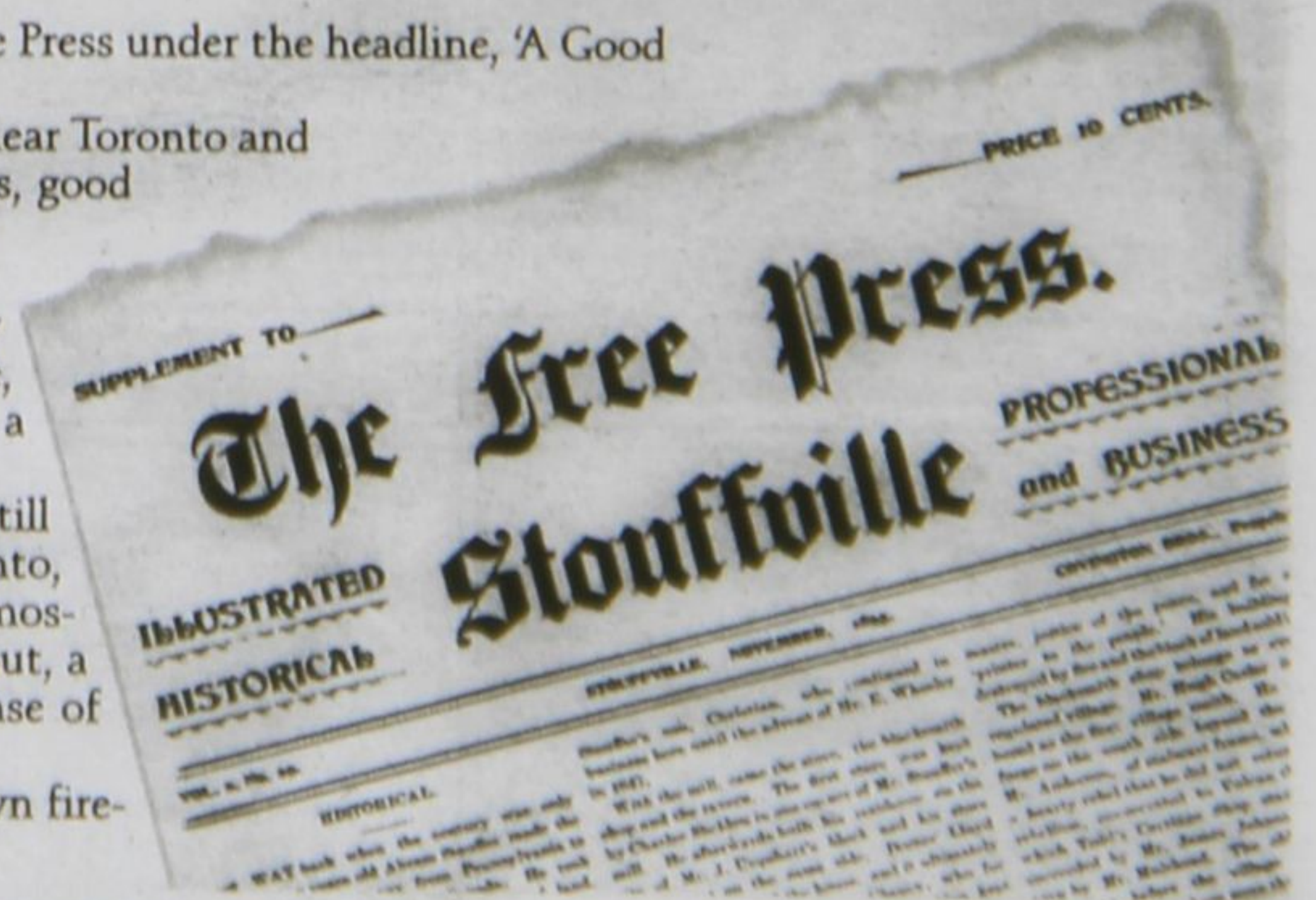
In a Nov. 1895 issue, the following article appeared in The Free Press under the headline, 'A Good Place to Live':

'As a place of residence, Stouffville has many advantages. It is near Toronto and has four trains daily. We have churches of all the denominations, good schools and a public library. There are fine stores, some of them quite metropolitan in character.

'The municipal rates are low and there is a splendid weekly market. If you are thinking of changing your place of residence, we recommend Stouffville as a good place in which to build a home. Look it up.'

A hundred and ten years later, many of those advantages still apply, and despite rapid growth and our proximity to Toronto, Whitchurch-Stouffville has managed to retain its small town atmosphere. As another excerpt from the Nov. 1895 Free Press points out, a local newspaper can play an important role in promoting a sense of community.

'The local paper gives us a chat with our neighbours at our own fireplace, and for distant friends is a weekly letter from home.'



Okay, men.
One more time.
What does she
want for
Christmas?

"DIAMONDS!"

I can't heeeaaaar you! Louder!

"DIAMONDS!"

Louder!

"DIAMONDS!"

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